1608/809

A SECOND NARRATIVE OF THE Signal Victory

Which it pleaſed Almighty GOD to beſtow

UPON

HIS MAJESTIES

NAVY

Under the Command of

HIS ROYAL HIGHNES

THE

DUKE of YORK

AGAINST

The STATES-FLEET of the *United Neatherlands.*

On the Third of *June*, 1665.

Licenſed *June* 10. by *ROGER L'ESTRANGE*

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HIS *Royal Highneſs*, after his Return from the Coaſt of *Holland*, where he had lain before the *Texell*, taken their Merchants Ships, and uſed all poſsible means to provoke the *Dutch* to a Battle, having certain Intelligence, not only that the *Dutch Fleet* had taken the Sea, but that they publiquely declared their intentions of ſeeking out the *Engliſh Fleet*; and farther, that the *Good Hope* with their *Convoys* from *Hamburgh* had unfortunately fallen into their hands, judging that all theſe Circumſtances might tend to the diſreputation of His Majeſties Affairs, became very impatient of all delays; and though many of the Proviſions neceſſary for the *Fleet* were not yet on board, His *Royal Highneſs* reſolved to carry the *Fleet* from the *Gunfleet* near *Harwich* to *Sowld Bay*,

and there to take in the remainder of victuals and other ſtores; that being a more open place, and therefore more proper for going out to the *Dutch*, in caſe they ſhould attempt to make any *Bravado* upon the *Engliſh Coaſt*. In proſecution therefore of that Reſolution, the *Fleet* weighed anchor at high water on the 30 of *May* (carrying with them the *victualling ſhips* and other ſtores) the wind being at *South Eaſt*, but it did not long continue ſo, but *veered* to the *Eaſt South-eaſt*, *Eaſt*, and *Eaſt North-eaſt*, ſo that we were forced to ſtop Tydes, and uſing all our endevors we could not arrive at *Sowld Bay* til *June* the *firſt* about 6 in the *morning*, where we anchored about 5 miles from the ſhore.

Between *Twelve* and *One* of the clock this day, his *Royal Highneſs* being at dinner, news was brought that a great *Fleet* was diſcovered to the *Eaſt*, *South-eaſt* of us, about ſome *ſix leagues* off, which concluding

cluding to be the *Dutch*, his *Royal Highneſs* ordered the *Victuallers* to *Harwich*, and the *Fleet* to *weigh*, and to get farther off the ſhore, which was done accordingly till the Flood; when we came again to an anchor, the *Dutch* kept under Sail, and endevoured to keep to the *South-eaſt*, and *Eaſt South-eaſt* of us. At *Ten* of the clock *that night*, we weighed anchor again, the wind being at *Eaſt*, We did our beſt to get up to the *Dutch Fleet*, but they being to windward of us, it did not depend upon our choice, ſo that the *Dutch* keeping upon a wind, in the *morning*, *June* 2. we ſaw them about 5 *leagues South eaſt* from us, the wind varying from the *South eaſt* to *South South-eaſt*, *South* and *South South-weſt*. At *eight* in the *Evening Leſtoff* bore *North-weſt* about *eight leagues* off, and the *Dutch Fleet* was then about 3 *leagues* off, ſtanding off with their *Star-board* Tacks on *board*, and we ſtood after them, but they ſtayed not for us. There

There was a great desire in the *Fleet* to have engaged the *Dutch this day*, which had *twelve years since* been so fortunate to the *English* against the *same Enemy*; what other reason, besides the ill fortune of that day, the *Dutch* could have to decline the fighting us, then when they might have had the wind of us, we can neither conjecture, nor learn from any of the Prisoners since taken. *This Evening* one of the Enemies *Sternmost Ships* was *fired*, some of our men perswaded themselves it was one of their *Admirals*, but we since understand by Prisoners it was one of their *Fireships*, which took fire before her time by the drunkenness of her Commander: What ever it was, our men believed the best, and as it was no small joy to see an Enemies Ship so easily destroyed; so they took it for a *good Omen* of a *future Victory*.

This night we kept sight of the *Enemy* all

all night, and the wind *veering* to the *South-west*, between *two* and *three* of the clock in the *morning*, *June* 3. we lay to *weather* of the *Dutch Fleet*, which they perceiving, tacked and ſtood with us, but could not *weather us*; being as we ſuppoſe about *fourteen leagues* from *Leſtoffe*, *South-eaſt ſoutherly*. At half an hour paſt *three* in the *morning* the Battle began: *Prince Ruperts Squadron* having the *Van*, and of that Squadron *Vice-Admiral Mings*; His *Royal Highneſſe's* Squadron was in the *Body*, and that of the Earl of *Sandwich* in the *Rear*: The firſt ſalutes the *Dutch* received from *Prince Rupert's* Squadron, (animated by the example as well as orders of that valiant Prince) made them doubt whether the victory over the *Engliſh* were either ſo certain, or ſo eaſie, as the *Heer de Wit*, and their other Countrymen who were to ſtay at home, had perſwaded them, *Both Fleets* having paſſed

ſed thus by one the other in a Line, there was for a conſiderable time a perfect quiet without ſhooting one Gun: About ſix of the clock, we tacked, and ſtood to the *Weſt*, *North-weſt*, and they to the *South*, *South-eaſt*, and paſſed by one the other; there being again an intermiſſion from ſhooting; Upon this Tack, the *Dutch* endeavoured to get the wind of us, which they hoped to have done, which his *Royal Highneſs* foreſeeing, they would endevour, kept ſo cloſe to the wind, that when the *Dutch tacked*, hoping to *weather Prince Rupert*, they found his *Royal Highneſs* to *weather* them, and therefore rather then paſs between *two* Lines of our *Fleet*, they choſe to bear to *Leeward* of *Prince Rupert*. We ſtood not long that way, but his *Royal Highneſs* ordered the *Reer* of His *Majeſties Fleet* to *tack* firſt, that ſo we might the better and ſooner get up with the *headmoſt* of *their Fleet*.

This

This was not done without some intermixture of the Ships of the several Squadrons; but yet without any considerable prejudice. This being executed, his *Royall Highness* making Sail with his *Squadron*, he came to be the *Headmost Squadron* of the Line, and had Sir *John Lawson*, with some other Ships of his Squadron a head of him, with which keeping up to the *Headmost* of the *Enemies* Ships, we kept them to *Leeward* of us, and never suffered them to tack, but kept the wind of them the whole day. The Fight continued long, and the *Dutch* made very considerable resistance: but it was observed, That as we bore in upon them, they altered their course, so that whereas they might have layn up *South South-east*, they bore off to the *East South-east*. His *Royall Highness* who had observed in the beginning of the Battle, the endeavour of the *Dutch* to get the wind, and by what means it was prevented, and also the great benefit we had by it, by securing us against the Enemies *Fire-ships*, (in which they had placed a great part of their hopes) had always a regard to the keeping that advantage which God had so favourably given us; which with the concurrence of another accident, did somewhat prolong the *Battel*. The continual smoak would not give

us leave to see very far before us what the Enemy did; and therefore the Actions of *Others*, were in some measure to be the guide even of the *Admiral*: his *Royal Highness* therefore having seen Sir *John Lawson* with his accustomed Valour bear in towards the Enemies Line, but soon after to edge off again to windward, concluded that Sir *John Lawson* had seen some of the Enemies Ships endeavouring to get the Wind of us, and therefore to prevent That, his *Royal Highness* kept near the Wind, which was a guide to the whole Fleet. But this mistake was understood a little while after, by a Messake from Sir *John Lawson*, who privately sent to give his *Royal Highness* an accompt *that he was hurt*, and for that time uncapable of service, *(though, thanks be to God, without danger of life)* so that we perceived the Working his Ship, which led us into that Errour, *was through the want of their Commander*, the Master being also hurt. His *Royal Highness* therefore ordered Captain *Jordon* to go on board the *Royal Oak*; after which *She* did excellent good service. This Error being now perceived, and about the same time *Opdams* Ship (which was known by a *Pendant* under his *Flagg*) coming up to lie almost opposite *in their Line* to his *Royal High-*

ness

neſs Ship in *Ours*; His *Royal Highneſs* was pleaſed to give command to bear up to him, ſaying, *He would himſelf have a Bout with* Opdam, (for ſo he termed it.) In which being obey'd, and the whole Fleet taking example by the working of his *Royal Highneſs* Ship, we began to ply our Guns at ſo near a diſtance, that the Enemy began to ſhrink apace, though not abſolutely to run. Whilſt things were in this condition, it pleaſed God (who had through the whole Conduct of this great Buſineſs wonderfully favoured us) by an extraordinary Operation of his Almighty hand to facilitate our Work; and to ſhorten the danger to which his *Royal Highneſs* had reſolved to expoſe his own Perſon, by the *blowing up of Opdams Ship*; which as it was a great joy to the *Engliſh*, ſo it could not but infinitely diſcourage the *Enemy*, who did not ſtand long after, but (we bearing in upon them, preſently fled, we following them, and taking and burning their Ships until night; when not being able to do any more ſervice upon them, we only endeavoured to keep ſo much ſight of them, as to be up with them in the morning, when we again followed the purſuit (taking divers of their Ships) unto the very mouth of the *Texel*, where their Ships getting

into Shoal water, and being perfectly acquainted with the place, we durſt not adventure ſo near the ſhore with our Ships, which were not in condition to bear much Sail, if there ſhould have been need for bringing them off again. We ſtaid in ſight of the *Texel* till we ſaw their Ships go in which they did not neglect to do the firſt Tide.

In the beginning of the Battle, two of our Ships, not being able to *weather* the *Enemy*, fell into their Fleet; the *One* (which was the *Charity*, a Ship taken from the *Dutch* in the laſt War) tacked, hoping thereby to help her ſelf, but was taken; the *Other* a *Merchant Ship* in the Kings Service, called the *John and Abigal*. Captain *Joſeph Saunders*, *Commander*, finding himſelf amongſt them, reſolved to ſtand the ſame way with our own Fleet, and to receive the Enemies Broadſides, which he had ſo near, as with them to receive their Threats alſo, and was honored with a Broadſide from *O. dams* own Ship, and a *Vice-Admiral*, betwixt which he lay: but the Enemy was too much in haſte to attend one ſingle Ship; ſo that with a conſiderable loſſe of Men, and the battering of his *Ship*, *Maſts*, *Rigging*, and *Sails*, he came ſafe to his Majeſties Fleet. During the Battle; there came in to us three of his *Majeſties Ships* returned from the

Sound,

Sound, as alſo the *Leopard* from *Harwich*: To the *Dutch* came *young Everſon* with *three Ships*.

To give an account of the particular Actions of his Majeſties Commanders, would be not onely tedious, but prove injurious to many; whoſe merits would ſeem leſs, if not named; nor would it be leſs injurious to all thoſe who have done well, (if any Actions were to be particularized) not to name (with reproach) thoſe who have been wanting to their Duty. Let it therefore ſuffice for an evidence of the bravery of his Majeſties Commanders in general, that the *Invincible Dutch Fleet* is by them *overcome*; though I will not conceal from you, that I hear it ſaid, his *Royal Highneſs* doth not think it ſufficient that they do better then the *Dutch*; but will expect that they ſhould do becometh *Engliſh men*; and therefore it is thought this occaſion having made ſome diſcovery of the tempers of ſome men, who could not be known before, ſome *alterations* will be even amongſt the *Victorious*: for the generality of the *Engliſh Seamen*, it is certain, that greater or more valiant hearts are not to be found in any Race of men, nor more indefatigable: of which a greater inſtance could not be, then this Battle, which was of ſuch continuance, that if ſeparated from the *labour*, the *danger* alone would have been inſupportable to any other ſort of men; and perhaps would have been ſo to them alſo, had not the danger awakened their courages, and re-doubled their ſpirits.

Having told you of a Ship of his Majeſties loſt; if I ſhould give over here, you might think we had loſt by the Victory; and therefore it is neceſſary to give you ſome account

of

of the *Enemies Loss*, and *Our Gain*; which nevertheleſs, in the preſent uncertainty; you muſt give me leave to do as Accomptants uſe, with a *reſerve* of (*errors excepted*) endeavouring notwithſtanding, ſo far as maybe, to tell you nothing for certain which is not ſo. Firſt, Then you muſt know, that beſides *Opdams* Ship (which we ſaw blown up, and beſides, have ſince ſpoken with ſome of the Men which were ſaved) There was taken, and afterwards fired (that ſo ſhe might not clog us in the purſuit) the *Orange Tree*, a Ship of 76. *Guns*. There were afterwards four of their Ships, in the purſuit, fell foul the one of the other, and were by one of his Majeſties *Fire Ships* ſet on fire, one of them was the Ship *Couverden*, in which was *Tromps Vice Admiral*, *Gillis Tyſſe Campen*, carrying 60. *Guns*, *The Prince Maurice*, *Cap. de Clerk*, carrying 50. *Guns*; *The Stodt Utrecht*, *Cap. Oudart*, 44 *Guns*; And a fourth, which was, I think, called the *Stedan*, carrying about 40. *Guns*: After theſe were all on fire, and our Ships paſſed by, one of them burning to her Powder, blew up, and with the blaſt, blew away all the *Rigging*, *Maſts*, *&c.* of one of them of about 40. *Guns*, which was on fire, and ſo enabled ſome of the *Dutch*, who remained there

to

to quench the fire, and ſave the Ship, at leaſt to preſerve their own lives till ſome of their Ships paſſed that way; but whether they towed Her into Harbour, or not, we know not: An accident very extraordinary, and which it was not reaſonable to expect or provide againſt. This was obſerved by ſome of the Boats and Ketches which were ſent to ſave the lives of the poor men, who were left to the two unmerciful Elements. A little after this, were likewiſe burned by another Fire-ſhip, three Ships which were faln foul one of another, the one called *Maſſeeven, Jacob Rowſe Commander*, of 78 *Guns*, the *Tergoes*, of 34 *Guns*, and *Cap. Cuypers* Ship of 30 *Guns*.

Of Ships taken, am not able to give you a perfect account, in regard ſome are (as we hear) gone directly for *England*, and others not yet come to the Fleet: Some of the Ships taken, are,

The	*Mars*,	46	Guns.
	Zeeland,	44	
	Carolus Quintus,	53	
	Delft,	32	
	Nogelboome,	52	

We hear of others taken by other Ships, of which we have not the Names, but do conclude, we have deſtroyed them 23, or 24 Men of *War*, at the leaſt; by the next you ſhall have a more perfect account.

Accor-

According to what we learn from the Prisoners, there were slain of the *Dutch Commanders* of note (besides *Opdam*) *Cortenaer*, *Stellingwerf*, *Schram*; and (most say) *Tromp*: but for the certainty of this, the Curious must expect Letters from *Holland*.

On Our Part, were slain the *Earl* of *Marlebrough*, *Rear Admiral Sanjum*, *Captain Ableson*, and *Captain Kirbye*, *Commanders*; Of *Volunteers* of Note, fell the *Earl* of *Portland*, *Earl* of *Falmouth*, *Lord Muskery*, and Mr. *Boyle*, second Son to the *Earl* of *Burlington*. (The *three last* by one fatal shot) I cannot find that the *Dutch Commanders* taken can give any exact account of the number of Ships in their Fleet, that which they seem most perswaded of, is, That they had about 100 *Sail* besides *Fire-ships*. I believe the Kings Fleet was within very few of 100 *Sail*; a force worthy on either side to contend for so great a Stake.

The number of Men *killed* and *taken* from the *Dutch*, I conjecture may be about 8000. What the number on the side of the *English* are, I have not yet heard computed; but by the conjectures which may be raised from the accompt of some of the Ships which were in the hottest of the Action, it may be concluded, that never was so great a Victory obtained against the *Dutch*, with so small loss on the side of the *English*.

FINIS.